

CFR Part 50), Appendix R, Section III.J to Facility Operating License No. DPR-65, issued to the Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, et al., (NNECO or the licensee), for operation of the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2, located in Waterford, Connecticut.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The licensee has requested an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III. J to the extent that it requires emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery power supply to light all areas needed for operation of safe shutdown equipment and in access and egress routes thereto. The licensee based this exemption request primarily on the security lighting system currently installed at the plant for access and egress route emergency lighting to meet the underlying purpose of the rule. The underlying purpose of the rule is to ensure that lighting of sufficient duration and reliability is provided to allow operation of equipment required for post-fire, safe shutdown of the reactor.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for an exemption dated February 14, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated April 5 and May 31, 2000.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed for the licensee to avoid the burden of full compliance with the regulations. Full compliance with the regulations would require battery powered lights to illuminate a large outdoor area for an 8-hour period. It is not considered practical to illuminate large outdoor areas with battery powered lighting for an 8-hour period. The licensee already has diesel-powered security lighting in the same area and portable lighting equipment is also available. As noted above, the underlying purpose of the rule can be met without the burden of installing additional lighting.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action. The underlying purpose of the rule the licensee is requesting to be exempted from is to ensure that the plant can be safely shut down in the event of a fire.

Based on the availability and reliability of the security lighting and the availability of portable lighting, there is reasonable assurance that the access and egress routes through the yard area that are relied on for safe

shutdown of the facility can be accessed in the event of a fire.

On the basis of its review, the staff concludes that the licensee will still have the capability to safely shut down the plant, in the event of a fire, after this exemption has been granted.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 16, 2000, the staff consulted with the Connecticut State official, Michael Firsick of the Division of Radiation, Department of Environmental Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated February 14, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated April 5 and May 31, 2000, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Library component of the NRC Web site, <<http://www.nrc.gov>> (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of June, 2000.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Jacob I. Zimmerman,

Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-17033 Filed 7-5-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328]

Tennessee Valley Authority; Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, Environment Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Introduction

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-77 and DPR-79, issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, the licensee) for operation of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN) Units 1 and 2, respectively. The facility is located in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would revise License Condition 2.B.(5) in each of the licenses, which authorizes possession of byproduct and special nuclear materials (SNM). The License Condition states:

Pursuant to the Act and 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, and 70, to possess, but not separate, such byproduct and special nuclear materials as may be produced by the operation of the facility.

These proposed amendments change the words "as may be produced by the operation of the facility" to "as may be produced by the operation of the Sequoyah or Watts Bar Unit 1 Nuclear Plants." Upon NRC approval of the

requested license amendments, TVA plans to transport low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) from Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN), Unit 1, to the SQN site for storage in a facility designed for that purpose.

The proposed action is in accordance with TVA's application for license amendments dated December 17, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action

Byproduct material and small amounts of SNM are present as the radioactive contaminants in certain LLRW that has, in the past, been shipped to the Chem-Nuclear facility near Barnwell, South Carolina, for permanent deep-trench disposal. The LLRW being considered for storage at the SQN site includes ion-exchange resins, pressurized water reactor filters, tank solids, irradiated metal reactor components, and dry active waste.

TVA believes that License Condition 2.B.(5) was intended, consistent with nonproliferation objectives, to restrict licensees from separating nuclides generated in the course of operation of the licensed facility; it was not intended to restrict licensees from possessing low-level by-product and SNM produced by operation of another facility. Nonetheless, TVA is requesting that License Condition 2.B.(5) be modified as stated above to remove any question of interpretation with respect to receipt of LLRW generated at Watts Bar Unit 1 at the SQN site.

TVA has, until now, made regular shipments of Class B and Class C LLRW (as defined in 10 CFR Part 61) to the South Carolina Barnwell permanent disposal facility. Class A dry active waste (the lowest radioactivity level) is routinely shipped to the Envirocare facility in Utah, which is licensed to receive Class A dry active waste, but not other types of Class A, Class B, or Class C wastes. Recent escalating LLRW access and disposal fees at Barnwell, and the prospect of sudden closure of the facility, with no alternative disposal facility for LLRW (other than Class A dry active waste) becoming available in the foreseeable future, have led TVA to develop an alternative solution until such time as a practical off-site repository option again becomes available. The cost to TVA of sending LLRW to Barnwell for disposal has increased 800% over the past 10 years. Furthermore, South Carolina has recently passed legislation to enter into a LLRW disposal pact with the States of Connecticut and New Jersey (known as the Atlantic Compact) and has announced that, ultimately, only those states will be allowed to ship LLRW to Barnwell. TVA has a very large interim

storage facility at the SQN site with ample storage space for LLRW from operation of both SQN units and the single WBN unit. The LLRW storage modules were constructed at SQN in the early 1980s but have never been utilized.

The proposed License Condition revision is needed to allow the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant the option to ship LLRW to the SQN site, thereby permitting continued operations of the WBN plant. TVA has stated its intention to ship any stored waste (predominantly Class B and C) to the Envirocare of Utah facility (or any other facility) at such time as that facility is licensed to receive and dispose of such wastes.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that, with regard to radiological impacts to the general public, the proposed action involves activities located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure.

The NRC granted Materials License No. 41-08165-14 (Docket No. 30-19101) on September 17, 1982, for use of the LLRW storage facility at SQN for a period of 5 years. At the same time, the NRC issued a Safety Evaluation Report and Environmental Impact Appraisal to support operation of the storage facility using assumptions consistent with the 40-year plant operating license. However, consistent with the NRC's policy of utilizing permanent off-site disposal of LLRW whenever possible, LLRW shipments were continued to the Barnwell facility. Consequently, no radioactive waste has ever been stored in the SQN LLRW storage facility. The Materials License was renewed once prior to expiration, but TVA requested its termination on April 25, 1990, since there were no plans for use of the storage facility in the foreseeable future. The termination request noted that if use of the facility became necessary, TVA would not need to renew the materials license but would, instead, perform a 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation as allowed in Generic Letter 81-38, "Storage of Low-Level Radioactive Wastes at Power Reactor Sites."

Because of the licensee's ALARA [As Low As Reasonably Achievable] program and significant reductions in

generation of LLRW (including coolant chemistry and reactor fuel quality improvements), the amount of LLRW expected to be generated and stored in the SQN LLRW storage facility for two SQN units and one WBN unit is significantly less in volume and radioactivity than the assumptions used in the Environmental Impact Appraisal that supported the Materials License granted by the NRC in 1982 for operation of two SQN units for the life of the plant. Specifically, there would be no incremental increase in occupational radiation exposure over that assumed in previous NRC actions related to operation of this storage facility. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

As stated by the NRC in its Environmental Impact Appraisal for Materials License No. 41-08165-14 for the SQN LLRW on-site storage facility, the quality of the human environment will not be significantly affected and there will be no significant environmental impact from the operation of the existing SQN LLRW interim storage facility. The added LLRW stored as a result of WBN's single-unit operations will remain well within the original design and proposed capacity limitations considered in the above-mentioned Environmental Impact Appraisal.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the "no action" alternative). Denial of the exemption would result in no change in environmental impacts already analyzed by the NRC and TVA. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Environmental Impact Appraisal for Materials License No. 41-08165-14, dated September 17, 1982,

supporting the materials license for the SQN LLRW storage facility.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, the NRC staff consulted with an official of the State of Tennessee, Ms. Joelle Key, on May 4, 2000, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. Ms. Key had a question regarding the quality of packaging for LLRW material to be stored at this facility. She was advised that the material will be packaged in 300-year high-integrity containers and will not need repackaging prior to shipment to a permanent disposal facility. Ms. Key indicated the State was in general agreement with TVA's request.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's letter dated December 17, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Publicly available records are also accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room) and from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of June 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ronald W. Hernan,

Senior Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-17034 Filed 7-5-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-350-1430-PE-01-24-1A]

OMB Approval Number 1004-0010; Notice of Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has submitted the proposed

collection of information listed below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). On March 20, 2000, the BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 15001) requesting comment on this proposed collection. The comment period ended on May 19, 2000. The BLM received no comments from the public in response to that notice. Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the BLM information clearance officer at the telephone number listed below; (202) 452-5033.

The OMB is required to respond to this request within 60 days but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration your comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made within 30 days directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Interior Department Desk Officer (1004-0010), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20503, telephone (202) 395-7340. Please provide a copy of your comments to the Bureau Clearance Officer (WO-630), 1849 C St., NW., Mail Stop 401 LS, Washington, DC 20240.

Nature of Comments: We specifically request your comments on the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper functioning of the BLM, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the BLM's estimate of the burden of collecting the information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. How to minimize the burden of collecting the information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Color-of-Title (43 CFR part 2540). OMB approval number: 1004-0010.

Abstract: The BLM is proposing to renew the approval of an information collection for an existing rule at 43 CFR part 2540. That rule provides guidelines and procedures for transferring legal title to public lands administered by the BLM from the United States to eligible individuals, groups, or corporations who have valid claims under the Color-of-Title Act of December 22, 1928 (45 Stat. 1069) as amended by the Act of July 28, 1953 Stat. 227), (U.S.C. 1068-1068b).

Bureau Form Number: 2540-2.

Frequency: Once.

Description of Respondents:

Respondents are individuals, groups, or corporations.

Estimated Completion Time: 1 hour.

Annual Responses: 20.

Filing Fee Per Response: \$10.

Annual Burden Hours: 20.

Bureau Clearance Officer: Shirlean Beshir (202) 452-5033.

Dated: June 23, 2000.

Shirlean Beshir,

Acting BLM Information Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 4310-84-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Sale of Business and Disaster Assistance Loans

AGENCY: Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice of sale of business and disaster assistance loans—Loan Sale #2.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Small Business Administration's ("SBA") intention to sell approximately 25,000 secured and unsecured business and disaster assistance loans, (collectively referred to as the "Loans"). This is the first sale of Disaster Assistance Loans and includes both business and consumer loans. The total unpaid principal balance of the Loans is approximately \$1 billion. SBA previously guaranteed some of the Loans under various sections of the Small Business Investment Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. 695 *et seq.* Any SBA guarantees that might have existed at one time have been paid and no SBA guaranty is available to the successful bidders in this sale. The majority of the loans originated from and are serviced by SBA. The collateral for the secured Loans includes commercial and residential real estate and other businesses and personal property located nationwide. This notice also summarizes the bidding process for the Loans.

DATES: The Bidder Information Package will be available to qualified bidders beginning on or about May 26, 2000. The Bid Date is scheduled for August 1, 2000, and closings are scheduled to occur between August 14, 2000 and September 8, 2000. These dates are subject to change at SBA's discretion.

ADDRESSES: Bidder Information Packages will be available from the SBA's Transaction Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch Mortgage Capital Inc. ("Merrill Lynch"). Bidder Information Packages will only be made available to